



February 9, 2023

Dear Representatives Houghton & Durfee,

We are a small, community-supported nonprofit mental health resource center serving all ages in the Mad River Valley and Waterbury areas since 2010. Our three licensed therapists provide individual and group therapy in offices we provide and in our local school campuses. Sponsoring various mental health educational workshops, book-studies, presentations and support groups in the community and school district are other ways we serve our area. With the demand for therapeutic services, it has been an uphill battle to recruit licensed therapists; these last two years have been especially demanding.

We are following your bill H.62 with immense hope as it moves through the legislature. It is our experience that the lack of reciprocity in the field of licensed mental health counselors is yet another obstacle that prevents access to quality mental health services by those suffering with mental illness. This lack of access directly relates to the uptick of crisis situations in our communities and ERs. If Vermont could enter into the interstate Counseling Compact, it would allow qualified, licensed professionals to help Vermonters months *earlier (years in some cases)* than the current process toward Vermont licensure for out of state clinicians.

Please contact us if we can do anything to support this effort.

With gratitude for your service,

Chrissy Rivers

Executive Director, Duxbury, VT

Cindy Carr, Board President, Waitsfield, VT

Catherine Shapiro, Board Member, Waitsfield, VT

Susan McKnight, Board Member, Moretown, VT

Bob Cumiskey, Board Member, Warren, VT

Charlie Hosford, Board Member, Waitsfield, VT

Deirdre Fennelly, Board Member, Warren, VT

Patti Kaufmann, Board Member, Warren, VT

Fran Plewak, Board Member, Warren, VT

Lisa LeBlanc, Board Member, Waitsfield, VT

Heather Morehouse, Board Member, Warren, VT

Robin Jackson, Board Member, Warren, VT